

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 7 and 9 without prejudice or disclaimer. Please amend Claims 1-6, 8, and 10, as indicated below. The following is a complete listing of claims and replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the present application:

1. (currently amended) ~~[[An]]~~ A composite image processing apparatus ~~having for performing~~ a plurality of image processing functions, including a printer function and a scanner function, the apparatus comprising:

an IP address ~~generating means, generator,~~ connected to an IPv6 router on a network, ~~for acquiring~~ operable to acquire prefix information from the IPv6 router and ~~generating~~ generate an IP address unique to each of the plurality of image processing functions based on the acquired prefix information; and

a control means for communicating ~~controller operable to communicate~~ with a plurality of appliances on the network by use of the IP addresses generated for the plurality of image processing functions and ~~operating~~ operate each of the plurality of image processing functions via a common bus, ~~so that the control means executes~~ to execute communications between each of the plurality of image processing functions and at least one of the plurality of appliances, and to execute a transfer task for transferring packet data,

wherein the transfer task for transferring packet data is executed on a time-division basis using buffer areas allocated to the printer function and the scanner function, respectively.

2. (currently amended) ~~[[An]]~~ The composite image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the ~~control means~~ controller executes the plurality of image processing functions by executing, on a time-division basis using a task switchover, control task programs corresponding respectively to the plurality of image processing functions, and performs the communicating using the IP addresses generated for the plurality of image processing functions based on the control task program, taking as a unit a control task program corresponding to an image processing function of the plurality of image processing functions.

3. (currently amended) A control method ~~[[of]]~~ performed by ~~[[an]]~~ a composite image processing apparatus having for performing a plurality of image processing functions, including a printer function and a scanner function, the method comprising:

an IP address generating step of establishing a connection to an IPv6 router on a network, acquiring prefix information from the IPv6 router, and generating an IP address unique to each of the plurality of image processing functions based on the acquired prefix information; ~~and~~

a controlling step of performing a communication with a plurality of appliances on the network by use of the IP addresses generated for the plurality of image processing functions and operating each of the plurality of image processing functions via a common bus, so that the controlling step executes communications between each of the plurality of image processing functions and at least one of the plurality of appliances, and

an executing step of executing a transfer task for transferring packet data on a time-division basis using buffer areas allocated to the printer function and the scanner function, respectively.

4. (currently amended) [[A]] The control method of an image processing apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the controlling step involves executing the plurality of image processing functions by executing, on a time-division basis using a task switchover, control task programs corresponding respectively to the plurality of image processing functions, and performing the communication using the IP addresses generated for the plurality of image processing functions based on the control task program, taking as a unit a control task program corresponding to an image processing function of the plurality of image processing functions.

5. (currently amended) ~~A control program embodied on a computer-readable medium~~ storing a computer-executable control program for implementing a method of controlling [[an]] a composite image processing apparatus ~~having for performing~~ a plurality of image processing functions, including a printer function and a scanner function, the method comprising:

an IP address generating step of establishing a connection to an IPv6 router on a network, acquiring prefix information from the IPv6 router, and generating an IP address unique to each of the plurality of image processing functions based on the acquired prefix information; and

a controlling step of performing a communication with a plurality of appliance on the network by use of the IP addresses generated for the plurality of image processing functions and operating each of the plurality of image processing functions via a common bus, so that the controlling step executes communications between each of the plurality of image processing functions and at least one of the plurality of appliances, and

an executing step of executing a transfer task for transferring packet data on a time-division basis using buffer areas allocated to the printer function and the scanner function, respectively.

6. (currently amended) ~~A control program embodied on a~~ The computer-readable medium according to claim 5, wherein the controlling step ~~involves executing~~ executes the plurality of image processing functions by executing, on a time-division basis using a task switchover, control task programs corresponding respectively to the plurality of image processing functions, and performing the communication using the IP addresses generated for the plurality of image processing functions based on the control task program, taking as a unit a control task program corresponding to an image processing function of the plurality of image processing functions.

7. (cancelled).

8. (currently amended) ~~[[An]]~~ The composite apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the IP address ~~generating means~~ generator sends each generated IP address to the router to check for duplication of the IP address, and, if the IP address is a duplicate, the IP address

~~generating means~~ generator generates an IP address different from the duplicate IP address based on the prefix information.

9. (cancelled).

10. (currently amended) [[A]] The method according to Claim 3, wherein IP address generating step includes sending each the generated IP address to the router to check for duplication of the IP address, and, if the IP address is a duplicate, the IP address generating step includes generating an IP address different from the duplicate IP address based on the prefix information.